

In the claims:

1. (previously presented) A method of painting a surface in a predetermined color, comprising the steps of providing a paint including a film-forming binder component for forming a film of the paint on the surface, a color-producing component for providing the predetermined color on the surface, and a fire-retardant component adapted to protect the surface from consequences of fire which does not exceed 15% of weight of the paint; and painting the surface with said paint so as to impart the predetermined color to the surface and also to protect the surface from fire.

2. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said providing includes using the fire-retardant component which includes at least one phosphate selected from the group consisting of melamine polyphosphate, ammonium polyphosphate, melamine diphosphate, melamine pyrophosphate, and melamine phosphate.

3. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said providing includes using the fire-retardant component which includes melamine or its derivative selected from the group consisting of melamine cyanurate, melamine borate, melamine polyphosphate, melamine diphosphate, melamine pyrophosphate and melamine phosphate.

4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said providing includes using said fire retardant component which includes a charring agent, a blowing agent and an additional element which includes phosphate or its derivatives or melamine or its derivatives.

Claim 5 cancelled.

6. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said providing includes using said fire-retardant component which includes melamine, pentaerythritol and melamine polyphosphate.

7. (Original) A method as defined in claim 6, wherein said providing includes using said fire retardant component which include 5.25 % of melamine, 5.25 weight % of pentaerythritol; and 4.50 weight % of melamine polyphosphate of total weight of the paint.

8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said providing includes using said paint in which additional components including a filler and an additive are added.

9. (previously presented) A paint for painting a surface in a predetermined color, comprising a film-forming binder component for forming a film of the paint on the surface; a color-producing component for providing the predetermined color on the surface; and a fire-retardant component adapted to protect the surface from consequences of fire which does not exceed 15% of weight of the paint, such that when a surface is painted with the paint, the predetermined color is imparted to the surface and the surface is protected from fire.

10. (Original) A paint as defined in claim 9, wherein said fire-retardant component includes at least one phosphate selected from the group consisting of melamine polyphosphate, ammonium polyphosphate, melamine diphosphate, melamine pyrophosphate, and melamine phosphate.

11. (Original) A paint as defined in claim 9, wherein said fire-retardant component includes melamine or its derivative selected from the group consisting of melamine cyanurate, melamine borate, melamine polyphosphate, melamine diphosphate, melamine pyrophosphate and melamine phosphate.

12. (Original) A paint as defined in claim 9, wherein said fire retardant component includes a charring agent, a blowing agent and an additional element which includes said phosphate or its derivatives or said melamine or its derivatives.

Claims 13-15 cancelled.

16. (Original) A paint as defined in claim 9; and further comprising a filler and an additive.

Claims 17-23 cancelled.

24. (previously presented) A method of producing a paint for painting a surface in a predetermined color, comprising the steps of mixing a film-forming binder component for forming a film of the paint on the surface, and a color-producing component for providing the predetermined color on the surface; and adding a fire-retardant component adapted to protect the surface from consequences of fire which does not exceed 15% of weight of the paint, so that when a surface is painted with the thusly produced paint, the predetermined color is imparted to the surface and the surface is protected from fire.

25. (Original) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein said adding includes using the fire-retardant component which includes at least one phosphate selected from the group consisting of melamine polyphosphate, ammonium polyphosphate, melamine diphosphate, melamine pyrophosphate, and melamine phosphate.

26. (Original) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein said adding includes using the fire-retardant component which includes melamine or its derivatives selected from the group consisting of melamine cyanurate, melamine borate, melamine polyphosphate, melamine diphosphate, melamine pyrophosphate and melamine phosphate.

27. (Original) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein said adding includes using said fire retardant component which includes a charring agent, a blowing agent and an additional element which includes said phosphate or its derivatives or said melamine or its derivatives.

Claim 28 cancelled.

29. (Original) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein adding includes using said fire retardant component which includes melamine, pentaerythritol, and melamine polyphosphate.

30. (Original) A method as defined in claim 29, wherein adding includes using said fire retardant component which include 5.25 weight % of melamine, 5.25 weight % of pentaerythritol, and 4.50 weight % of melamine polyphosphate of total weight of the paint.

31. (Original) A method as defined in claim 24; and further comprising introducing into the paint a filler and an additive.